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CALGARY • WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 3 2008 metro

Celebrity pg 18

Gossip swirl surrounds GG actors' rumoured romance

## Identity-theft fears curb retail driver's licence checking

**PRIVACY** In a bid to prevent identity theft, Alberta's privacy commissioner joined a chorus of its Canadian counterparts allowing retailers to check driver's licences but not permitting them to photocopy or swipe them.

The Privacy Commissioner of Canada released a series of guidelines yesterday acknowledging the need for some retailers to check identification for age of majority and to prevent fraud, but said collection of information should be limited to names and addresses.

Identity thieves have an attraction to licence numbers because they are rarely changed and once stolen, it's difficult to rectify the situation.

METRO CALGARY

Local pg 2

## Probe begun into denied med funding

Travel pg 14

Bust out into music history

ShareYourViews
calgaryletters@metronews.ca

Music **Rise Against's appeal**

ROBIN KUNISKI / METRO CALGARY

Tim McIlrath and Zach Blair of the band Rise Against, who recently released their latest album, Appeal to Reason, played a special acoustic jam at X92 FM before a sold-out show at the Roundup Centre last night.

# 'Parliamentary putsch' looms

## Political minds weigh in on coalition fallout

NEIL MACKINNON
neil.mackinnon@metronews.ca

**Expect Stephen Harper to prorogue parliament until January and get ready for a vicious propaganda campaign, says one political analyst.**

It equates to a "parliamentary putsch," said University of Calgary political scientist Barry Cooper on the heels of Gov. Gen. Michaëlle Jean's early return from Europe to deal with a coalition pact between Liberals and New Democrats, propped up by the Bloc Québécois, that threatens to oust the Conservative minority government.

"You can put together a pretty effective propaganda campaign in six weeks outlining just how secretive and cynical these three stooges have been," said Cooper, fully expecting a scathing attack ad campaign in Tory defence.

**"You can put together a pretty effective propaganda campaign ... outlining just how secretive and cynical these three stooges have been."** Barry Cooper

Around water coolers, Edmontonian Rob Gardner said opinion is split on whether a potential coalition is designed to stimulate the economy or a farce to quell the sour grapes of sore losers.

"People are laughing and shaking their heads," said Gardner. "We already have one clown running this circus, we don't need three."

While finger-pointing runs rampant, Grant MacEwan poli-sci Prof. Chaldeans Mensah said in this case, there's enough humble pie to go around.

"There's a real sense of an engineered crisis here, and all parties must share the blame because both the government and opposition all made this situation untenable," said Chaldeans, moments after Premier Ed Stelmach called for a "time out" in order to "focus on the real issue facing Canada."

MORE COVERAGE/PG 4

# Brookfield backpedals on parking-rate jump

KRISTA SYLVESTER
krista.sylvester@metronews.ca

Almost a week after sending out a letter detailing a massive bike parking-fee hike at several city parkades, the management company has backtracked.

Metro obtained a copy of the original memo sent to employees at Fifth Avenue Place, managed by Brookfield Properties, and learned the fee increase to $500 from $100 annually has been retracted.

While Brookfield said the increase was "erroneous" on Monday, they declined to comment further yesterday.

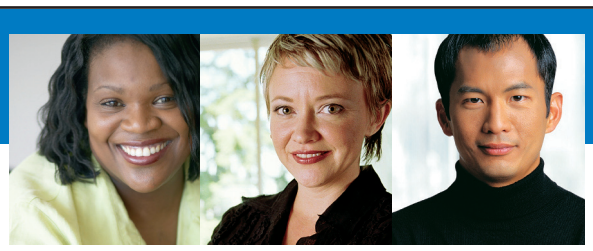
Metro was contacted by numerous employees with the letter yesterday, including Gerardo Odorizzi.

**"If the reports ... are false, why does everyone I know that uses bike parking have a letter indicating the rate increase?"** Gerardo Odorizzi

"If the reports of bike parking increases are false, why does everyone I know that uses bike parking have a letter indicating the rate increase?" he asked.

Later in the day, however, Carmen Benoit said she was contacted by Brookfield Properties by phone and was told the rate increase had been retracted.

Many people emailed and called Metro yesterday outraged at the initial increase and even more confused about the organization stating the increase was an error.



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**Chamber of Commerce calls for political focus on economy**
The Calgary Chamber of Commerce joined the chorus of discontent over recent federal political developments, asking politicians to put the public interest ahead of partisan politics and to focus on measures to improve investor and consumer confidence and stabilize the economy. METRO CALGARY

# Local

## Zoolights a highlight
**One of western Canada's most enthralling light shows is back in action at the Calgary Zoo. Zoolights presented by Enmax runs daily and features nine unique, animated animal light figures.** METRO CALGARY

BT BREAKFAST TELEVISION weekdays at 6 | Citytv ROGERS

## News in brief

**RE-ENACTMENT** Police and Crime Stoppers lit a fire yesterday as part of a re-enactment of an attempted arson over the pedestrian bridge near Optimist Park which occurred on Oct. 18. The arson unit is hoping for tips. METRO CALGARY

metronews.ca
What's online today.

**Video** The life, legacy and accomplishments of Ted Rogers at **metronews.ca/canada**

**Video** Canadians react to Ottawa drama with both glee and outrage at **metronews.ca/canada**

## Steinke's mother tells of son's abuse

**TRIAL** Accused triple-murderer Jeremy Steinke's mother took to the stand yesterday telling the court about her son's abusive childhood.

Jacqueline May testified her son endured physical abuse from her ex-husbands and lovers, and also that Steinke, now 25, was on medication for ADHS when he was younger.

METRO CALGARY

# Funding refusals reviewed

JEFF CUMMINGS
jeff.cummings@metronews.ca

**Alberta's ombudsman is investigating why a number of Albertans in need of funding for medical procedures outside the country have been turned down by the provincial government without an explanation.**

Gord Button says his office has received 12 complaints from people who were in need of critical treatments, including two five-year-old girls who needed therapy for an extreme sleeping disorder known as head-banging.

"In my view, this is administratively unfair," said Button. "The complaints I've investigated, it is unclear how decisions were made, what evidence was considered, and how that evidence was weighed in reacting to a decision."

The mother of the two girls — Nicole and Denise — says her Red Deer family had to pay $7,000 out of their own pockets to take the children to a special doctor in Chicago since Alberta Health and Wellness refused to pay for it.

"I was lucky enough to have those resources by taking them to the States," said Emerald Raho. "This is about Alberta as a whole, and making sure people can get the services when they need them."

BEN LEMPHERS/FOR METRO CANADA

**Five-year-old twins, Denise, left, and Nicole Raho, wait for a news conference to end yesterday morning. The children have a rare sleeping disorder, which forced them to seek medical help in the United States.**

## Meals on Wheels provides site for ambitious art show 1111

Paul Hughes breathed a sigh of relief yesterday as he stepped off of a month-long rollercoaster ride.

Hughes, the curator of ambitious art project 1111, was beside himself last month after the Art Gallery of Calgary, which was slated to host to show featuring a plethora of local artists' work, yanked the plug citing scheduling conflicts.

After pondering splitting the show into 11 pieces to be held at 11 locations, it will now stay in tact, as Meals on Wheels promised 40,000 square feet of space to house the show at their unfinished 225, 58 Ave. SE location.

"Santa came early," said Hughes.

Meals on Wheels' Kathryn Robson said as they're still $9 million short on their fundraising before they can begin construction at the site, opening it up to an art show just made sense.

The show will open Jan. 11, 2009.

NEIL MACKINNON/METRO CALGARY

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metro Do it daily.

**Basement fire sends two to hospital**
Fire crews responded to a basement fire yesterday around 10 a.m. in the 200 block of Midlawn Close SE. An adult and child were home at the time and were treated in hospital for minor burns and smoke inhalation. The cause is under investigation. METRO CALGARY

ROBIN KUNISKI FOR METRO CALGARY

Good Earth Coffeehouse will be selling these cute little gingerbread families and donating a portion of the proceeds to Brown Bagging It for Calgary's Kids. The money will help provide nutritional lunches to children who may otherwise go without.

# Charity with a bite

KRISTA SYLVESTER
krista.sylvester@metronews.ca

**It's gingerbread families helping families this Christmas.**

Calgary-based Good Earth Coffeehouse is selling gift-packed gingerbread families — a mommy, daddy and child gingerbread person — and donating a dollar from each sold towards the Brown Bagging it for Calgary's Kids (BB4CK) charity.

"It's like families giving back to other families through gingerbread families. It's a fun way to help send children to school with lunches," Good Earth spokesperson Kathy Campitelli said.

BB4CK packages and delivers 1300 brown bag lunches per day to 65 schools across the city daily, the executive director of the charity said.

"Every dollar goes towards helping one child, and you can just imagine how far that goes," Bob McInnis said. "One dollar provides a child with a nutritional lunch."

The lunches include a fresh sandwich on whole wheat, fruit, vegetables, a fruit drink and a nutritional snack, he added.

The gingerbread families have already been a hit, according to 4th St. SW franchisee Bob Mathison.

"They are a fun attraction especially right now during the holiday season, people love them," he added.

## Checkstops to be run during the day

**POLICE** Calgarians might notice for the first time, daytime checkstops during this year's campaign against drinking and driving. Over the past year, cops have handed out more than 200 tickets for daytime drinking and driving. METRO CALGARY

## News in brief

**IDEAS** Calgary Inc. Magazine launched its first annual Innovation Pitch Fest contest calling for creative Calgarians business concepts yesterday. The provincewide contest is designed to stimulate innovative ideas. For more information, please visit *www.calgaryinc.ca/pitchfest*. The deadline for entries is Feb. 27, 2009.

**JOURNALIST** Kidnapped Alberta journalist Amanda Lindhout is reportedly doing OK and treated well by her captors in Somalia. She is being held for a $2.5 million ransom, and talks are continuing for her release. Her ransom was demanded more than a month ago. METRO CALGARY

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**Olympic security going to sea?**
RCMP are again looking to use cruise ships to house security officers during the 2010 Vancouver Olympics, even though their first attempt at such a plan fell apart amid a cost dispute. **REUTERS**

# Canada

## Greens May be in

**The Green party may have a role to play in a proposed coalition government aimed at replacing the minority Conservatives, Leader Elizabeth May said yesterday. The party, which has no elected members in Parliament, fully supports the alliance. May said she has been in discussions with Liberal Leader Stéphane Dion over what role the party might play in the coalition.** REUTERS

## Media mogul Rogers dead at 75

**TORONTO** Ted Rogers, who headed a North American broadcasting, publishing and telecoms conglomerate, has died, Rogers Communications said yesterday. He was 75.

Rogers, who was hospitalized in late October for an existing heart condition, died at his home in Toronto.

Ted Rogers

"Though Ted was relentless in business and building this company over the years, he was also very much a family man," said Phil Lind, Rogers' vice-chairman, who worked with the founder for almost 40 years. **REUTERS**

Video: The life and legacy of Ted Rogers at metronews.ca/canada

# Nation watching Gov. Gen.

**Having spent the past week in a flurry of handshakes and speeches, she is coming home to hole herself up with books and advisers to grapple with a crisis that places the fate of government in her hands.**

"It must be lonely in a way," constitutional scholar Paul Thomas of the University of Manitoba said of the enormous task facing Gov. Gen. Michaëlle Jean as she returns to Ottawa today after cutting short her four-country European tour.

It appears increasingly likely Jean will face a request from Prime Minister Stephen Harper to prorogue, or shut down, the current parliamentary session before opposition parties get the chance to kick him out next week in the hopes of taking power with a coalition government.

She has the power to refuse him, but nonetheless remains important as she fulfils her duties to maintain stability.

**TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

### Decision maker

- Michaëlle Jean became Canada's 27th Governor General in September 2005.
- Jean was born in Port au Prince, Haiti. She immigrated to Canada with her family in 1968.
- An award-winning journalist, Jean worked for eight years with shelters for battered women. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Video: Canadian reaction to Ottawa drama ranges from glee to outrage at metronews.ca/Canada

## News in brief

**SAFETY** Greyhound will tighten security at its main Canadian bus terminals, including screening passengers with hand-held metal detectors, the company said yesterday. The rules come four months after a passenger was beheaded on a bus near Portage La Prairie, Man.

**THAILAND** Two Canadians were killed and three injured late Monday when their van crashed on the way to catch a flight out of Thailand. Canadian Foreign Minister Lawrence Cannon has said around 1,000 Canadians are affected by upheaval in Thailand. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

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**Special cardiac teams not helping, researchers say**

Special teams set up to spot patients at risk of having cardiac or respiratory arrests in U.S. hospitals do not save lives and may not be a good use of resources, researchers said yesterday. REUTERS

# World

## Replacing Clinton with a Clinton?

**New York Gov. David Paterson has famous names to choose from in picking a replacement for Senator Hillary Clinton, including a Kennedy, a Cuomo and even another Clinton — as in the former president of the United States. Speculation over Bill Clinton, left, while intriguing, is largely dismissed as politically impractical. The consensus front-runner is Andrew Cuomo, son of former New York Gov. Mario Cuomo. The younger Cuomo is New York's attorney general.** REUTERS

# U.S. looks to ease tension

**U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice flew to New Delhi yesterday hoping to ease tension between India and Pakistan that has surged over the Mumbai attacks and put U.S. counterterrorism efforts at risk.**

The rampage by 10 Islamist gunmen in India's financial capital last week stoked longstanding Indian suspicions that Pakistan is unwilling, or unable, to stop militants on its soil from attacking India.

Rice cut short a European tour to go to India to meet Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, who is under election-year pressure to craft a muscular response to opposition criticism that his ruling Congress party is weak on security.

On Monday, India renewed a longstanding demand for custody of about 20 fugitives it believes are hiding in Pakistan.

Officials said the list includes Dawood Ibrahim, a Mumbai underworld boss blamed for 1993 bombings in Mumbai that killed 250, and Maulana Masood Azhar, a Pakistani Muslim cleric freed from jail in India in exchange for passengers on a hijacked jet.

Indian Foreign Minister Pranab Mukherjee said military action was not being considered, but later warned a peace process begun in 2004 was at risk if Pakistan did not act decisively.

His Pakistani counterpart offered a joint probe to find the militants responsible for the killing spree in Mumbai in which 183 people were killed.

"We don't want to do anything in haste. We don't want to do anything that fuels confrontation," Pakistani Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi said. REUTERS

## Venezuela **Opposing Chavez's plan for re-election**

JORGE SILVA/REUTERS

Opposition supporters hold a banner depicting national hero Simon Bolivar as they protest against Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez's proposal of constitutional change in Caracas yesterday. Chavez is gambling his future on a referendum to change the constitution so he can run for re-election.

## **News** in brief

**DISEASE** The death toll from Zimbabwe's worst recorded cholera epidemic has risen to nearly 500, the World Health Organization said yesterday, in a sign of the rapidly deepening crisis. The spread of the normally preventable and treatable disease highlights the collapse in the nation.

**VATICAN** Gay-rights groups and newspaper editorials yesterday condemned the Vatican for its decision to oppose a proposed UN resolution calling on governments worldwide to decriminalize homosexuality.

**HEALTH** There is no evidence that brand-name drugs for heart and other cardiovascular ailments work any better than their cheaper generic counterparts, researchers said yesterday. REUTERS

# Facebook activists detained in Croatia

**CIVIL RIGHTS** Croatian police have questioned web activists who are criticizing or ridiculing the government, media and the opposition say, accusing authorities of violating basic civil rights.

Media said yesterday police had detained organizers of a group on Facebook which called an anti-government rally in several towns, including the capital Zagreb, for Friday. The group has more than 80,000 members.

Police had arrested a coordinator of the protests in the Adriatic city of Zadar. The Business.hr news website said police had detained and questioned another activist in Zagreb. REUTERS

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# Comment & Views

Comment

## Blame the boomers

LifeCycle

Denise Rudnicki
drudnicki@gmail.com

If youth is wasted on the young then maybe love is too. How else to explain yet another young woman selling her virginity on the web, or the blogs, books and TV shows promoting starter marriages?

I was talking to a young friend about relationships. I wondered how she meets guys. Do she and her friends go to bars? "Oh no," she said. She and her friends might go to bars to meet a guy for a one-night fling but to find a meaningful relationship, they go online.

And what do they do, I asked, once they've found these meaningful relationships. Do they marry? "Lol," she said. Why would they marry? Why bother?

My generation is to blame for this laissez-faire attitude toward love and commitment.

We raised kids with an attention span of about three minutes, with a pick and choose attitude toward life, who select a career based on how much vacation time it gives them, who think happiness and success are a right, and who blame everyone but themselves when they are unhappy or fail. We taught them that it's OK to flee a marriage and bust up a family because one or the other of their parents isn't "happy."

Don't worry, we still love you, and here's a trip to Jamaica to prove it, but gotta go 'cause I've been unhappy for years. This generation views divorce as an acceptable social trend.

We raised a generation of kids from broken homes, egomaniacs with poor self-esteem, people who go to clubs for casual sex and who look to Internet sites to find a meaningful relationship that doesn't include marriage.

For this generation, maybe love is a dish best served cold.

Denise Rudnicki is a West Coast-based writer, communications executive, and journalism instructor at Royal Roads University.

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**Metro Life Panel**
If you would like to give your feedback in the Metro Life Panel you can sign up at *www.metrolifepanel.ca*. Have your voice heard.

# comment & views 9

## Word on the street: Will you be giving money to a Christmas charity this year despite the global economic downturn?

**Scott Campbell**
age 19, Edmonton
**A: It doesn't matter how the economy is doing, I'm just not a give-something-to-charity kind of guy.**

**Lisa Skeed**
age 27, Edmonton
**A: Yes. I'll give happily to whoever comes around when I have money in my pocket.**

**Fred Johnson**
age 64, Edmonton
**A: I usually do give to a charity this time of year, and I think I will this year because my job hasn't been affected.**

**Graham Hart**
age 21, Dartmouth, N.S.
**A: I definitely plan on giving to charity, probably in the form of donating time for charity.**

**Janet Wright**
age 52, Calgary
**A: If there's ever a time when people should be donating to charity, it should be when the economy is in such a dire straight.**

metro life panel

### Metro Life Panel

**Results from the Canadian Metro Life Panel (357 respondents):**

**Yes: 25%**
**No: 7 %**
**Don't know: 68%**

**Sign up to give your feedback at:**
metrolifepanel.ca

## Letters

### Viva la revolution: It's time for regime change

It's time to get on with governing Canada in a fair and truly democratic way. This includes respect for minorities, women, the elderly, the poor and the working class. And, we need more generous, cogent and coherent policies to assist the poorest globally.

The Conservative government has offered very little of the above and has behaved like the schoolyard bully.

It is time for regime change! **DR. ROBERT C. DICKSON, CALGARY, ALTA.**

### Where is the media when you need them?

Why isn't the media screaming for all of our sakes?

Why are you not crying out for the benefit of all Canadians to stop the Liberals, Democrats and Bloc Québécois from usurping our government?

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**Nexen soars on takeover report**
Shares in Nexen Inc. rose 9.3 per cent to $23.88 yesterday after a report said that French oil major Total SA is poised to make a $19.7-billion takeover offer for Canada's No. 4 oil explorer. **REUTERS**

# Business

EDITOR: FERMIN DESOUZA, FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

## Oilsands could kill millions of birds: Study

**A coalition of North American environmental groups says the development of Canada's oilsands region threatens to kill as many as 166 million birds over the next five decades and is calling for a moratorium on new projects in the region.**

The coalition, which include the Natural Resources Defence Council, the Boreal Songbirds Initiative and the Pembina Institute, says petroleum-extraction projects in the oil-rich region of northern Alberta are a threat to migratory birds and the boreal forest they rely on.

Their study concluded that development of the oilsands, would be fatal for six million to 166 million birds because of habitat loss, shrinking wetlands, accumulation of toxins and other causes.

The solution, the groups say, is to halt new projects in the oilsands and to clean up existing facilities. They are also calling for strengthened regulations to protect Canada's vast boreal, or northern, forest and for Alberta, whose government has backed oilsands developments, to prove the resource can be exploited without serious environmental harm.

The report estimates about half of North America's migratory birds nest in the boreal forest and between 22 million and 170 million birds breed in areas that could be subject to oilsands development.

The report has not yet been made public.

**REUTERS**

## Opening **Red-hot sales**

REUTERS/MIKE SEGAR

**Victoria's Secret Angels models Selita Ebanks, from left, Marisa Miller, Heidi Klum, Alessandra Ambrosio and Doutzen Kroes pose for photographers at the opening of the new Victoria's Secret flagship store in New York City yesterday.**

## **Business** in brief

**MARKETS** The S&P/TSX index was sent on a see-saw ride as news that Manulife would issue new stock offset talk of a takeover of Nexen. The index fell 0.93 per cent to 8,327.81.

**AUTOS** James Arnett, a lawyer with corporate-restructuring experience, was named special adviser on the auto sector by the federal and Ontario governments. **REUTERS**

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**Phelps named SI's sportman of the year**

U.S. swimmer Michael Phelps was honoured as Sports Illustrated's sportsman of the year yesterday. Phelps broke a record with eight gold medals at the Beijing Olympics in August and became the winningest Olympian ever. METRO NEWS SERVICES

# Sports

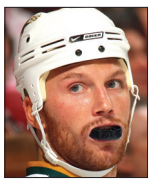
***"I think he thought it was funny. The league didn't think it was funny, the Dallas Stars didn't think it was funny, nobody thought it was funny."***

**The Flames' Craig Conroy after last night's loss to Dallas on comments made by Sean Avery earlier in the day.**

SPORTS@METRONEWS.CA

## Avery suspended for comment

**NHL** The NHL indefinitely suspended Sean Avery prior to last night's Stars-Flames game, pending a hearing with commissioner Gary Bettman. After yesterday's morning skate, Avery made lewd comments to the media regarding his former girlfriend, Calgary-born actress Elisha Cuthbert, and her current boyfriend, Flames defenceman Dion Phaneuf.



Sean Avery

"I just want to comment on how it's become like a common thing in the NHL for guys to fall in love with my sloppy seconds," Avery said.

"I completely support the league's decision to suspend Sean Avery," said Stars owner Tom Hicks. "Had the league not have suspended him, the Dallas Stars would have. This organization will not tolerate such behaviour." The date for the hearing has not yet been scheduled.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

# Stars put distraction aside

**NHL RESULT**

**Stars 3 Flames 1**

DALLAS STARS VS

**LAURENCE HEINEN**
for Metro Calgary

REUTERS/TODD KOROL

The Stars' James Neal, left, celebrates with teammate Fabian Brunnstrom after Brunnstrom scored last night.

**THE SKINNY:** The Stars shook off the spectacle Sean Avery made of himself earlier in the day and skated to their second win in a row in Alberta following a 4-3 win over the Oilers on Sunday.

**THE IMPORTED SNIPER:** Rookie Swedish left winger Fabian Brunnstrom backhanded his own rebound past Miikka Kiprusoff at 7:53 of the second period for his first goal in 10 games. The marker stood up as the game-winner.

**THE DIFFERENCE:** Despite being jinxed by Flames fans, Dallas goalie Marty Turco stopped 36 of 37 shots fired his way to record back-to-back victories for the first time this season.

**THE LONE GOAL:** David Moss notched his sixth of the season in the second when he slipped a rebound past Turco.

**THE STAT:** Kiprusoff, who finished the game with 20 saves, now has a lifetime record of 4-9-2 against the Stars.

**THE QUOTE:** **"I don't think it's entertainment when you're trying to embarrass or insult other people."** Iginla on Avery.

**THE NEGATIVES:** Calgary defencemen Dion Phaneuf and Mark Giordano both finished with minus-two ratings.

**THE NEXT GAME:** The Flames start a stretch of four road games in six nights on Friday (6 p.m., Sportsnet, Fan 960) when they face the Blues in St. Louis.

# Tough day all around for Toronto Blue Jays

YorkReport

Marty York

marty.york@metronews.ca

It hit the Blue Jays front office about as hard as a Roy Halladay fastball to the jaw. As first reported at metronews.ca after noon yesterday, Canada's MLB franchise laid off about 40 employees on what surviving members of the front office have labelled Black Tuesday.

"So much for happy holidays," a Blue Jays source lamented. "A big chunk of the sales staff has been laid off. It's a very, very, very sad day. A morbid day. We're seeing a lot of tears here (at the Rogers Centre). First, we came into the office to the news that our owner (Ted Rogers) just died. And then the layoffs. I guess this day will go down for the rest of time as Black Tuesday for the Jays." A number of divisions within the Rogers corporation were affected by the downsizing. Sources who know about these sorts of things told me no Canadian sports franchise in history has laid off as many employees in one day as the Jays did yesterday.

• Like Calgary Stampeders kicker Sandro DeAngelis, Hamilton Tiger-Cats kicker Nick Setta has drawn attention from NFL sources. Setta, however, is strongly leaning toward re-signing with the Ticats for considerably less money than he could make if he cracked an NFL roster. "In all honesty, I like Hamilton," Setta said. "I honestly want to stay." Setta led the CFL in the past season with a punting average of 47.4 yards.

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# Automotive

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EDITOR: KUMAR SAHA, KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

# Fits like a glove

## Honda model still class leader for fun

**When you're a hit, life's easy. And Honda's Fit has definitely been a hit in Canada, continually selling out its yearly allotment with ease. Beyond just being a spacious and fuel-efficient hatchback, the Fit's fun-to-drive character is what keeps customers coming back for more.**

Less than three years into Fit's stay in Canada, Honda has significantly revised it for 2009.

Fit version-2.0 gets the usual size inflation to make it more palatable for, ahem, larger passengers. Length and width are up by a huge 4,110 mm and 1,695 mm respectively to help create a more livable cabin and increased cargo capacity, while the wheelbase and track stretch 2,500 mm and 1,475 mm, making for a more confident ride on the highway.

Honda's styling department didn't have to work that hard at updating the Fit's sheetmetal. Throw a crease here, add a character line there … It's a very familiar shape, and can easily be mistaken for the older version.

### 2009 Honda Fit

**Type:** Subcompact
**Price:** $14,980 - $19,280
**Engine:** I-4, SOHC, 1.5L
**HP:** 117 @ 6,600 rpm

### Highlights

- Fun to drive
- Affordable
- Fuel-efficient

The added length has thrown the Fit's cute styling proportions a bit out of whack up front. While the new version is more angular and sharper than the egg-like original, there's a reason why you won't see many side-on photographs. For whatever reason — call it having to meet old Canadian bumper regulations, North American "tastes," etc. — our Fit gets a more prominent proboscis that's none too flattering. The European and Japanese-market Jazz is much tidier.

The Fit's mechanicals stay very familiar, meaning an innovative floorpan that keeps the fuel tank under the front seats. Suspension remains MacPherson struts up front with a torsion-beam out back, but the geometry has been altered to provide better handling.

Wheel and tire sizes go up in '09 as well with base DX models getting 15-inch steelies with plastic hubcaps, while LX models get the same 15-inch alloys found on the Civic Hybrid. Fit Sports exclusively get 16-inch alloy wheels.

The 1.5-litre 16-valve SOHC four-cylinder now gains i-VTEC, which increases horsepower to 117 at 6,600 rpm.

Transmissions remain five-speed units: a manual is standard on all trim levels, with the automatic options.

Fuel economy remains strong with the manual scoring 7.2/5.7 L/100 km city/highway. Strangely, for those looking for the ultimately frugal Honda, the automatic Fit actually takes the cake with a 7.1/5.5 L/100 km rating.

CARGUIDE STAFF

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# Rock museum a hit

TheTravelJunkie

Julia Dimon

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Madonna's infamous Jean-Paul Gaultier gold bustier.

Rock enthusiasts, break out your air guitars and head to NYC. Opening in the Big Apple this week, the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame Annex, will take visitors "beyond the typical museum experience" to honour "the most defining moments in rock history."

Nestled among Soho's boutiques, the Annex is a 250,000 square foot building stocked with music memorabilia. It's not as comprehensive as her sister museum in Cleveland, Ohio, but Annex does have a wide selection of rock relics, including: An Elvis "peacock" jump suit, handwritten letters from Paul Simon to Art Garfunkel, Bruce Springsteen's 1957 yellow Chevy and John Lennon's piano heard in the 1970's hit Imagine.

A visit to the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame Annex starts in the theatre, a gallery designed to look like a concert venue. Seated among the bar stools, museum-goers watch a toe-tapping, ten-minute music montage. Iconic stars, everyone from Aretha Franklin to U2, sing their hearts out to a crowd of screaming virtual fans. With surround sound, flashing stage lights and video projections, the theatre experience makes you feel like part of the concert.

In the next gallery, wireless audio devices, an iPod-like box complete with headphones, are handed out. Press play and the music automatically syncs up with the memorabilia you're looking at.

While standing in front of Johnny Cash's 1985 black leather boots, the audio guide blasts a fiery tune from the Man in Black. Moving towards Madonna's gold bustier, designed by Jean Paul Gaultier for her Blonde Ambition tour, the country music fades and transitions to the Material Girl's hit Express Yourself.

**New York's Rock & Roll Hall of Fame is sure to have some piece of memorabilia that will awaken your rebellious inner rock star.**

Since the museum and the technology are new, there are still a few glitches to be worked out. If you move around the room too quickly, the technology struggles to keep up. Scrambling songs from different artists, my audio guide played Bruce Springsteen when I was near the Grandmaster Flash exhibit and faded to Elvis Priestly when I was near the Buddy Holly's acoustic guitar. Despite these tiny inconveniences (which engineers are working to fix), the technology is pretty impressive, giving a new, interactive dimension to traditional museum-going.

In the gallery dedicated to NYC artists, there's a 26 ft scale map of Manhattan, with a touch-screen computer system that points out the city's key music spots, from the Apollo Theatre, to Studio 54, Madison Square Garden, to Madonna's first apartment in the Lower East Side.

A Top 40 kind of girl, I was most impressed by Michael Jackson's handwritten lyrics to Billie Jean, the legendary hit on the Thriller album that sold 40 million worldwide. Die-hard rock lovers may be more intrigued by the exhibit dedicated to The Clash, which showcases the British punk movement and follows its social impact on fashion, film and politics.

No matter your musical taste, New York's new Rock & Roll Hall of Fame is sure to have some unique piece of memorabilia that will awaken your rebellious inner rock star and take it on a nostalgic journey.

Julia Dimon is co-host of Word Travels, airing on OLN, and editor of thetraveljunkie.ca.

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**Essence reveals most influential**
Actor Will Smith, moviemaker Tyler Perry and singer/actress Queen Latifah have joined U.S. president-elect Barack Obama on Essence magazine's coveted Most Influential African-Americans list. IMDB.COM

# Entertainment

EDITOR: TINA COSTANZA, TINA.COSTANZA@METRONEWS.CA

## From Broadway to Sunset Strip

### Movie adaptations of hit plays sometimes struggle to jump the cultural divide

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada

**William Shakespeare has been jokingly called the most prolific screenwriter in Hollywood. At no time is that perhaps more befitting than right now.**

With upcoming movie adaptations of such plays as Frost/Nixon and the Pulitzer Prize-winning Doubt, it seems Hollywood is looking evermore toward the stage for the sake of the big-screen.

"There's some great stuff out there in theatre," said filmmaker Darren Lynn Bousman who directed Repo! The Genetic Opera on stage before recently adapting it for the cinema. "Even in Los Angeles, these little black box theatres have incredible things that, in my mind, are better than a lot of movies out there."

Perhaps no one knows this better than Luke Brown. As associate artistic director of Halifax's Neptune Theatre, he has just staged a successful run of Frost/Nixon and will be presenting Doubt in March.

"When we chose the show, we weren't even aware of the film," said Brown, admitting that cinematic counterparts aren't always advantageous from a marketing perspective: As they discovered staging The Producers last year.

"The film wasn't really well received and I think that may have hurt some people's view of going to see it (as a play)."

While musical-adaptations generally perform better on film, plays like Frost/Nixon continue to struggle jumping the cinematic synapse: Mamma Mia! earned an estimated $143 million in multiplexes, but the Tony Award-winning play-turned-movie History Boys only wrangled $2.7 million.

Conversely, more successful has been reworking film for theatre. With Dirty Dancing, The Color Purple, Young Frankenstein and even Shrek being adapted for the stage, the lights of Broadway could easily be mistaken for the billboards on Sunset Strip.

"If people are lying down $50 for something, they want to lay down $50 for something they're familiar with," said Brown about the trend. "Something that they haven't heard of, people may be a little more hesitant to throw down money on."

Surprisingly, as a theatre person, Brown isn't insulted by this rejuvenated fad of turning films into theatre. In fact, he only has one deep regret and that's the stage-adaptation of cult zombie classic Evil Dead.

"I was devastated when I heard it was being done (for the stage)," said Brown. "I wanted to do it myself."

Frank Langella, left, plays Richard Nixon while Michael Sheen plays journalist David Frost in the screen adaptation of the play Frost/Nixon, in theatres this month.


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BASE: Montreal, Ottawa-Gatineau, Toronto, Edmonton, Calgary, Vancouver; CMA 18+

**Zoolander sequel in the works**
Ben Stiller has confirmed he is working on a followup to his 2001 hit Zoolander. IMDB.COM

# Rowling's new book on shelves tomorrow

**A new book by British author J.K. Rowling, her unofficial farewell to the adventures of boy wizard Harry Potter, which made her the world's wealthiest writer, goes on sale tomorrow.**

Proceeds from The Tales of Beedle the Bard, expected to become an international best-seller even though the seven-book Potter series is over, will go to a charity for vulnerable children in Eastern Europe co-founded by Rowling.

Beedle the Bard is a collection of five fairy tales and is mentioned in the final Potter book Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows as having been left to the boy wizard's friend Hermione Granger by Albus Dumbledore, headmaster of Hogwarts school.

Only one of the five stories — The Tale of the Three Brothers — was recounted in the Potter book, and the volume contains clues that were to prove crucial to Potter's final mission to destroy Lord Voldemort.

Indicating the interest the new book is likely to generate with Potter fans young and old, one of seven hand-written, illustrated copies of Beedle the Bard made by Rowling fetched $4 million at auction a year ago.

**"Writing it has been the most wonderful way to say goodbye to a world I loved and lived in for 17 years."** J.K. Rowling

Online book store Amazon, bought that copy, and is printing up to 100,000 collectors' editions costing $100. The global print run will be around 7.5 million copies. Publishers and retailers give all net profits to the chosen charity once their costs are covered,

"…Writing it has been the most wonderful way to say goodbye to a world I loved and lived in for 17 years," Rowling said.

REUTERS

# WALL-E, Panda grab Annie nods

**FILM** DreamWorks Animation's Kung Fu Panda fought off stiff competition to earn 16 nominations — the most for a feature — for the International Animated Film Society's 36th Annual Annie Awards.

That includes a nomination for best animated feature, a category in which it is competing with Pixar Animation Studios' WALL-E — considered the front-runner for the Oscar. The top category is rounded out by nominations for Disney's Bolt, Sony's Waltz With Bashir, and Sherman Pictures' $9.99. REUTERS

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GlobalStyle

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**Lopez to host Miss America**
Mario Lopez will host the Miss America pageant, to be televised from Las Vegas on Jan. 24. PEOPLE.COM

# Battlestar prequel Caprica good to go

IntelleVision

Rick McGinnis
rick.mcginnis@metronews.ca

**GEEK CHRISTMAS CAME EARLY THIS YEAR:** It's been sort of on and maybe off so many times now that I've gotten tired of getting hopes up, but according to Variety, the Battlestar Galactica prequel Caprica has been given the green light by the Sci Fi Channel.

With the end in sight for Galactica — the last half of the fourth season begins in January and ends on March 20 — Sci Fi needs something to keep its basement-dwelling constituency pumped up, though they might have to subsist on Galactica's vapours until then.

"We want people to come to this who have never heard of Battlestar Galactica," Dave Howe, Sci Fi president, told Variety. "I think, because (Battlestar's) backdrop was space and spaceships, there was a barrier to entry for some viewers. Caprica has none of that. It's an intense family drama set on an Earth-like planet, in the near future, speaking to a lot of the ethical dilemmas that we as a human race are going to have to face very shortly."

As everyone knows, prime among those "ethical dilemmas" is whether to sleep with your sexy humanoid robot, so it's all good in geekland, especially since the pilot for the show was completed months ago and will likely be leaked to file-sharing sites quicker than you can say, "Greedo shot first."

**STONEHENGE, THE PYRAMIDS, ACCORDING TO JIM:** You don't have to be ancient or huge to be a wonder — you only have to last well beyond even the most generous expectations of your apparently invisible fans, at least according to TV critic Alan Sepinwall of New Jersey's Star-Ledger.

Sepinwall was writing on the occasion of this week's return of According to Jim to the airwaves for its eighth season, which he calls "an amazing feat, not just in the history of television, but possibly in the history of mankind itself."

Among the shows the Jim Belushi vehicle has outlasted on the small screen are The Mary Tyler Moore Show, Taxi, The Honeymooners and I Love Lucy. If it survives another season, it will have matched The Cosby Show for longevity and produced more episodes than Seinfeld. With that thought, let's pause for a moment and heave a deep, soul-shuddering sob before continuing with our apparently meaningless lives.

Rick McGinnis writes about music, movies, books and television, but not opera.

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| CA | Vu | SC | | 7:00 | 7:30 | 8:00 | 8:30 | 9:00 | 9:30 | 10:00 | 10:30 | 11:00 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 12/3/08 | 267 | 351 | - ACCESS | Help TV | | Smallville "Plastique" | | Dirty Sexy Money (N) | | Private Practice (N) | | Help TV |
| | 243 | 317 | 3 CFCN | etalk | Hollywood | So You Think You Can Dance Canada (N) | | | | Law & Order (HDTV) (N) | | News (N) |
| | - | - | 4 BROAD | (4) Broadcast News News. | | Broadcast News News. | | | | | | |
| | - | 371 | 5 KXLY | 4 News at 6 | 4 News at 6:30 | Entertainment | The Insider (N) | Pushing Daisies (N) | | Private Practice (N) | | Sexy Money |
| | 245 | 306 | 6 CBRT | Coronation St. | Jeopardy! (N) | Little Mosque | Sophie (N) | CBC News: the fifth estate (N) | | CBC News: The National | | The Hour |
| | 244 | 338 | 7 CICT | ET Canada | Entertainment | Grammy Nominations Concert | | Bones (N) | | The Guard (N) | | News Hour |
| | 246 | - | 8 CKAL | Law & Order: SVU | | Stylista (N) | | Friends | Friends | I Love Money | | Your City |
| | 119 | 705 | 9 CBXFT | Virginie (SC) | L'Épicerie | Le Match des étoiles (N) (SC) | | M pour musique (HDTV) (SC) | | Le Téléjournal (N) (SC) | | TJ Alberta |
| | - | - | 10 SHAW | (6) Local Programming | | | | | | Local Programming | | |
| | - | 372 | 12 KREM | News (N) | Hollywood | The Doctors (N) | | Red-Nosed Reindeer | | Grammy Nominations Concert | | Victoria's Secr |
| | - | 374 | 14 KSPS | NewsHour With Jim Lehrer | | Monarchy: The Royal Family at Work | | | Celtic Woman: The Greatest Journey -- Holiday Special | | | |
| | 502 | 390 | 15 CBC | CBC News: The National | | Fast Food Junkies (N) | | CBC News: The National | | CBC News: The National | | Fast Food |
| | - | 370 | 16 KHQ | News (N) | Be-Millionaire | Jeopardy! (N) | Wheel-Fortune | Christmas in Rockefeller | | Life (HDTV) (N) | | Law & Order |
| | - | 373 | 22 KAYU | The Simpsons | The Simpsons | Two/Half Men | Two/Half Men | Secret Millionaire (Series Premiere) (N) | | | | News (N) |
| | 297 | 652 | 37 WPIX | Stylista (N) | | CW11 News at Ten (N) | | Two/Half Men | Friends | Sex and-City | Will & Grace | According-Jim |
| news | 500 | 500 | 29 CNN | Larry King Live | | Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV) | | | | Larry King Live | | Cooper 360 |
| | 508 | 502 | 31 CNN2 | Lou Dobbs Tonight | | Nancy Grace | | Showbiz Tonight | | Lou Dobbs Tonight | | Nancy Grace |
| sports | 400 | 400 | 21 TSN | NHL Hockey | NHL Hockey Dallas Stars at Edmonton Oilers. (HDTV) (Live) | | | | | SportsCentre | UEFA Weekly | Poker Night |
| | 408 | 418 | 27 net | Best Damn Sports Show | | World Combat League | | Hockey Central | Simply | Sportsnet Connected | | Ult. Fighter |
| | 410 | 403 | 30 SCORE | College Basketball Michigan State vs. North Carolina. (Live) | | | | Score Tonight | | Hardcore Hockey Talk | | Final Score |
| | 411 | 457 | 44 OLN | Amazing | Ed's Up | Word Travels | Globe Guides | Pilot Guides | | Don't Forget Your Passport | | Amazing |
| | 417 | 406 | 48 SPEED | Pinks | Pinks Outtakes | Knuckles | Wrecked | Pinks | Pass Time | Am. Thunder | Am. Thunder | Pinks |
| family | 552 | 543 | 20 YTV | Drake & Josh | iCarly | Malcolm-Mid. | Home Improve. | Malcolm-Mid. | Fresh Prince | Futurama | Prank Patrol | Mystery Hnt. |
| | 557 | 541 | 39 FAM | Zoey 101 | Life Derek | Wizards-Place | That's-Raven | Zack & Cody | Natural-Sadie | Han. Montana | Life Derek | Ned's School |
| | 555 | 545 | 67 TOON | 6teen | Total Drama | Santa Claus | Bugs Bunny & Tweety Show | | Wayside | Johnny Test | Futurama | The Critic |
| cable variety | 575 | 583 | 11 CMT | Reba | Reba | Hope & Faith | Hope & Faith | All Through the Night | | Home Improve. | Home Improve. | Reba |
| | 553 | 546 | 17 TREE | Little Bear | Miss Spider | Comfy Couch | Rolie Polie Olie | Beren. Bears | Babar | Backyardigans | Dora-Explorer | Go, Diego, Go! |
| | - | - | 18 CHTV | The Insider (N) | E! News | Victoria's Secret Fashion | | Secret Millionaire (Series Premiere) (N) | | | | News (N) |
| | 505 | 398 | 19 TWN | (5) EarthWatch One | | EarthWatch One | | EarthWatch Two | | | | |
| | 602 | 568 | 23 W | House | Style by Jury | Will & Grace | Friends | Grocery Bag | Maxed Out | Supersize vs. Superskinny | | Got the Look |
| | 521 | 560 | 24 TLC | Jon & Kate Plus 8 | | Solved (HDTV) | | Jon & Kate | Jon & Kate | Jon & Kate Plus 8 | | Solved |
| | 603 | 561 | 25 FOOD | Iron Chef America | | Top Chef | | Dinner Imposs. | Dinner Imposs. | Challenge | | Iron Chef Am. |
| | 615 | 520 | 26 A&E | Bounty Hunter | Bounty Hunter | Parking Wars | Parking Wars | Parking Wars | Parking Wars | Bounty Hunter | Bounty Hunter | Bounty Hunter |
| | 617 | 522 | 32 SHOW | EastEnders | Saxondale | Kink in Hair | Kink in Hair | Durham County | | Billable Hours | G-Spot | Starter Wife |
| | 601 | 562 | 33 SLICE | Work Out | | Real Housewives of NYC | | Last 10 | Bulging Brides | Work Out | | Housewives |
| | - | 633 | 34 ENC2 | *Dang. Liaisons* | (7:25) *A Kiss Before Dying* ★★ (1991) | | | *White Palace* ★★★ (1990, Romance) | | | (10:45) *Henry & June* (1990) | |
| | 520 | 505 | 35 DISC | Monster Moves | | Mayday "Ghost Plane" | | Daily Planet | | MythBusters | | Cash Cab |
| | 620 | 523 | 36 BRAVO | Wingfield | Letters | Arts & Minds | The Achievers | Law & Order "Panic" | | Without a Trace | | *Dead Awake* |
| | 294 | 650 | 40 WPCH | (6) *Election* (1999) | | Cheers | Seinfeld | Family Guy | Family Guy | *Election* ★★★ (1999, Comedy) | | |
| | 626 | 547 | 41 COM | Laughs | Comedy Now | Air Farce | Just for Laughs | | Corner Gas | The Simpsons | South Park | House Party |
| | - | 539 | 42 TCM | (6) *Great Expectations* | | (8:15) *The Rocking Horse Winner* ★★★ (1949, Drama) | | | | *Drums* ★★★ (1938, Adventure), Sabu | | |
| | 628 | 584 | 43 SPIKE | UFC Unleashed | | The Ultimate Fighter (N) | | The Ultimate Fighter (N) | | The Ultimate Fighter (HDTV) | | Ult. Fighter |
| | 522 | 516 | 45 HIST | Captain Cook: Obsession | | NCIS "Twilight" | | Cities of the Underworld | | Captain Cook: Obsession | | NCIS |
| | 627 | 528 | 46 SPACE | Battlestar Galactica | | Ghost Hunters International (N) | | Stargate SG-1 "Hathor" | | Lost | | Deep Space 9 |
| | - | - | 47 AMC | (6) *Kelly's Heroes* ★★★ (1970, War) Clint Eastwood, Don Rickles. | | | | | *Heartbreak Ridge* ★★ (1986, War) Clint Eastwood. | | | |
| | 619 | 525 | 49 TROP | Reality | Ad Persuasion | Beverly Hills, 90210 | | Reality | What Happen? | Family Guy | Seinfeld | Seinfeld |
| | 600 | 564 | 50 HGTV | Property Virgin | Unsellable | Million Dollar Listing | | Holmes on Homes | | Mansions | The Stagers | Property Virgin |
| | 501 | 391 | 52 CTV | CTV Newsnet | | News | CTV Newsnet | News | CTV Newsnet | News | CTV Newsnet | News |
| | 504 | 508 | 70 BNN | Squeeze Play | | Market Call | | Headline | Market Call | Commodities | Business News | Squeeze Play |
| | 526 | 507 | 92 VIVA | The West Wing | | Mediums | Psychic Detect | Mediums | Encounters | Judging Amy | | Commander |
| | 269 | 350 | 93 APTN | APTN National News: Contact | | Singing Home the Bones | | Canadian Geographic | | Tribal Treks | Guides | Wings-Canada |
| | - | - | 94 MCP | (6:30) News | News | Matchmaker | Mom's-Upset | Van. Nights | Iranian Pop | Sabor Latino | | Hola Que Tal |
| | 571 | 581 | 100 MMM | Revival | Where You At | Fabulous Life Of... | | Party of Five "Zap" | | Fabulous Life Of... | | Party of Five |
| | 570 | 580 | 101 MM | Countdown to Britney | | Britney: For The Record | | | Punk'd | 50 Cent: Money and Power | | disBand |
| | 581 | 566 | 102 MTV | Paris Hilton's My New BFF | | Dance Life | Dance Life | MTV Live | After | The Hills | Super Sweet | Dance Life |

## critics' corner

**Sophie**
It's little Robbie's first birthday, and everyone's there to celebrate, including his father, Andre (Lyriq Bent), in this new episode. And since he's only 1 year old, it probably doesn't register on him that someone is stealing the spotlight. See, Rick (Sebastian Spence) is there with his new client, who turns out to be the hit of the party. Natalie Brown also stars in "Bursting Balloons." 8:30 PM on CBRT

**The Grammy Nominations Concert Live: Countdown to Music's Biggest Night**
It couldn't hurt to generate some buzz ahead of time — and to place that buzz generator between two annual television classics. Bookmarked by "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" and "The Victoria's Secret Fashion Show," this new special celebrates the Grammys and the opening of the Grammy Museum with announcements of this year's nominees and performances by some hot stars. Celine Dion, Foo Fighters, B.B. King, John Mayer and Taylor Swift are scheduled to appear. 10:01 PM on KREM

**Scrubs gets a new chief**

Scrubs gets a new network and a new chief of medicine — Courteney Cox Arquette. The NBC comedy is now on ABC, with Cox Arquette appearing in the Season 8 premiere on Jan. 6 as Dr. Maddox in the first of three episodes. **PEOPLE.COM**

## Celebrity Buzz

# Gossip set spawns another romance?

**RUMOURS** There's a new couple on the set of Gossip Girl — Ed Westwick and Jessica Szohr are reportedly dating, imdb.com reports.

Westwick was rumoured to be involved with actress Drew Barrymore, but he has now sent gossips into a spin by apparently stepping out with co-star Szohr.

The couple was spotted canoodling at an airport in Dallas, Tex., as they waited to catch a flight to New York on Sunday.

"They were trying to be discreet by stealing kisses near the gate," a source tells New York Post gossip column PageSix. The pair boarded the plane and, according to the source, "They were kissing in the aisles, but once they sat, she read her script and he drank a Heineken."

A representative for both stars said, "We do not discuss our clients' personal life."

It wouldn't be the first time romance had blossomed on the set of the hit teen drama: Blake Lively and Penn Badgley are dating after meeting each other through the show.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

# Madonna, A-Rod house-hunting?

**PEOPLE** Madonna and Alex Rodriguez are quietly shopping for love nests on the Upper East Side and on the East End, sources told Page Six.

"Madonna personally came to look at one house a couple of months ago, and Alex has been looking recently," an insider said. "We're talking about private, double-width mansions in the vicinity of $30 million to $60 million US."

The pop star and baseball player are also interested in scoring a house "with a garage that you can drive into for additional privacy — although those are rare and hard to come by," the source added. Another source said they were also looking in the Hamptons, N.Y.

Madonna's rep didn't return a call or e-mail, but Rodriguez's reps denied the two were looking for real estate.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

# Lindsay, Sam still together

**RUMOURS** Lindsay Lohan has taken to her online blog to slam reports she is to split from girlfriend Samantha Ronson, imdb.com reports.

The pair, who have been dating since earlier this year, have been dogged with rumours of a breakup following a spate of arguements.

The couple was recently spotted arguing in New York, and Britain's The Sun newspaper reported last month they had a spat outside a London nightclub, with Lohan left "in tears" after the incident.

But the actress is sick of the rumours, and is adamant she and Ronson are still together.

She writes on her MySpace blog, "Rumors … Just to clear this up ... Because I have been getting a lot of e-mails asking me this one question. Samantha Ronson and Lindsay Lohan (me) are not breaking up," before ending the posting with a smiley face.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

# Brangelina can't cook

**PEOPLE** Actor Brad Pitt is ashamed of his poor cookery skills but insists his partner Angelina Jolie is no better, announcing the best meal she has prepared for him is "cereal," imdb.com reports.

The couple has six children together, but Pitt admits that neither of them are able to conjure up a meal for their family because they just can't cook.

"I can rock a Sunday BBQ but that's as far as my culinary talents go," Pitt says.

When asked what Jolie's signature dish would be, Pitt replied, "Cereal."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

# Dunst gets restraining order

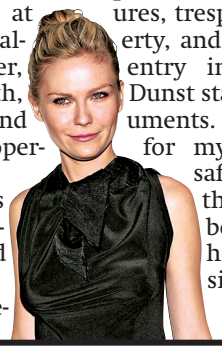
**PEOPLE** Actress Kirsten Dunst has been granted a restraining order against an intruder who was found on her estate last month, imdb.com reports.

Dunst wasn't at home when the alleged trespasser, Christopher Smith, was apprehended and escorted off the property.

Dunst maintains Smith has trespassed on her land before.

"Mr. Smith has repeatedly shown up uninvited at my place of residence in Los Angeles, going so far as to ignore police warnings, bypass my personal security measures, trespass on my property, and attempt to gain entry into my home," Dunst states in court documents. "I fear not only for my own personal safety, but also for the safety and well being of my housemate and assistant."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



# Fame made me stronger: Kate

**PEOPLE** Kate Bosworth struggled to handle her "brutal" Hollywood success as a youngster but is adamant the experience helped her to become a better person, imdb.com reports.

The actress landed her first big role at the age of 13 when she starred alongside Scarlett Johansson in 1998 film The Horse Whisperer. She says she believes her experience of fame as a child helped to make her "stronger."

"The obsession with the young Hollywood group happened when I was young and in Hollywood. It sort of coincided all at the same time," Bosworth says. "At the time, when you're being dissected and judged it's pretty brutal, but in hindsight it's great and — it sounds clichéd — you do come out the other side better and stronger."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

# Gossip Girl star expecting No. 2

**FAMILY** Gossip Girl star Kelly Rutherford is expecting her second child, imdb.com reports. The 40-year-old and her entrepreneur husband, Daniel Giersch, are due to welcome the new baby in June, a rep confirmed to Usmagazine.com

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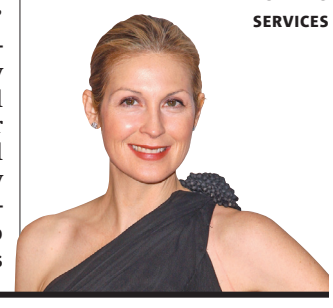

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**Thursday** Sunny -8 C / -18 C
**Friday** Chance flurries 5 C / -10 C

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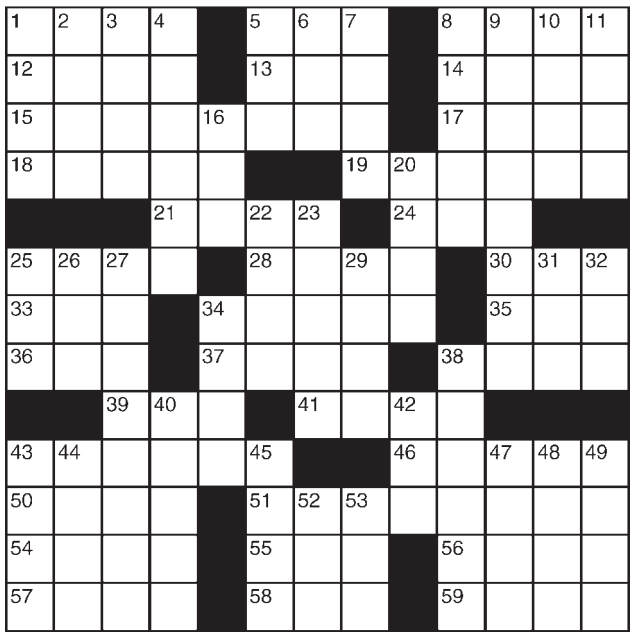
# Take Five



## Crossword across

1 Funny folks
5 Every iota
8 State
12 Birthright barterer
13 Pod denizen
14 Unembellished
15 Word-for-word
17 Met melody
18 Third rock from the Sun
19 Applied the first coat
21 Stromboli spillage
24 Popular card game
25 With 34-Across, kind of number a ZIP code generally is
28 Morays
30 Guitar's kin
33 Raw rock
34 See 25-Across
35 Afternoon affair
36 Apiece
37 Muhammad and Laila
38 Burn around the edges
39 Resistance measure
41 Gandhi wrapper?
43 Tomorrow, in Tijuana
46 Join together
50 Ear-related
51 Spine component
54 Make fun of
55 Have bills
56 Encounter
57 Hot tubs
58 Take a spouse
59 Big hatchets

## Crossword down

1 "— Only Just Begun"
2 Cruising
3 "Young Frankenstein" actress Teri
4 Hardly blunt
5 Suitable
6 Floral garland
7 Aladdin's prop
8 Forcefully
9 Martini ingredient
10 A Great Lake
11 Peruse
16 "Eureka!"
20 Oxidationoutcome
22 Bridal concealer
23 Sponsorship
25 Dandy
26 Rage
27 Brunette in the "Archie" comics
29 Bart's sister
31 Mauna —
32 Hearing organ
34 Rhett's shocking word
38 Hollywood industry
40 Cabbies
42 Trench
43 Some parents
44 On
45 Acknowledge
47 Mountain goat
48 Genealogy chart
49 Diner sign
52 Ram's mate
53 Roulette bet

## Sudoku

**HOW TO PLAY:** Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | 2 | | | | 1 | 6 |
| 4 | 3 | | | | 6 | | | |
| 1 | | | | 9 | | | 7 | 4 |
| | 6 | | | 8 | | 9 | | |
| 5 | | | | | | | | 1 |
| | | 7 | | 5 | | | 6 | |
| 8 | 1 | | | 2 | | | | 9 |
| | | | 9 | | | | 2 | 3 |
| 6 | 2 | | | | 1 | | | |

**PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | M | I | R | ■ | R | A | P | ■ | H | E | L | P |
| N | O | D | E | ■ | A | L | A | ■ | O | P | A | L |
| D | I | O | G | E | N | E | S | ■ | M | I | R | O |
| ■ | ■ | ■ | E | G | G | ■ | S | T | I | C | K | Y |
| C | H | I | N | O | ■ | L | I | O | N | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| H | I | N | T | ■ | D | I | O | N | Y | S | U | S |
| A | F | T | ■ | N | I | N | N | Y | ■ | O | P | E |
| D | I | O | C | E | S | E | S | ■ | S | L | O | E |
| ■ | ■ | ■ | A | M | O | R | ■ | B | L | O | N | D |
| M | E | N | T | O | R | ■ | D | O | E | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| O | B | I | T | ■ | D | I | O | X | I | D | E | S |
| R | O | L | L | ■ | E | O | N | ■ | G | A | S | H |
| K | N | E | E | ■ | R | N | A | ■ | H | Y | P | E |

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6 | 3 | 7 | 4 | 8 | 5 | 9 | 1 | 2 |
| 2 | 9 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 7 | 8 | 6 | 4 |
| 8 | 1 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 9 | 5 | 7 | 3 |
| 3 | 6 | 1 | 2 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 4 | 5 |
| 9 | 7 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 8 |
| 4 | 5 | 8 | 1 | 7 | 3 | 2 | 9 | 6 |
| 5 | 2 | 3 | 7 | 6 | 1 | 4 | 8 | 9 |
| 1 | 4 | 9 | 8 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 5 | 7 |
| 7 | 8 | 6 | 9 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |

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**SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:**
Under 13 min .....Genius
13-17 min.....Scholar
17-21 min .....Smart
21-25 min .....Not bad
25+ min.....Keep practising

## Metro Recipe of the Day

### Mustard-Tarragon Chicken Sauté

**INGREDIENTS:**
2 teaspoons olive oil
4 skinless, boneless chicken breast halves (about 1 1/2 lbs/750 g), pounded to 1/2-inch thickness
2 tablespoons flour
5 scallions, cut into 1-in. (2.5-cm) lengths
3/4 cup chicken broth
1 tablespoon red wine vinegar
4 teaspoons Dijon mustard
1 tablespoon chopped fresh tarragon or 1 tsp (5 mL) dried
1 small tomato, seeded and diced
1/4 cup diced gherkin pickle

**METHOD:**
1. In large nonstick skillet, heat oil over medium heat. Dredge chicken in flour, shaking off excess. Add chicken to pan and sauté 4 minutes per side or until golden brown. With slotted spoon, transfer chicken to plate.
2. Add scallions to pan and cook 1 minute. Add broth and vinegar, and bring to a boil. Stir in mustard and tarragon, and return to a boil. Stir in tomato and pickle. Return chicken to pan, reduce to simmer, cover, and cook 5 minutes or until chicken is cooked through and sauce is richly flavoured. Serve chicken with sauce spooned on top.

**SERVES 4**

rd.ca
For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to **rd.ca** or check out **Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!**

## Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

**ARIES**
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
Don't insist on deadlines being met. A viable concept will be seen to work. You'll be severe if you're asked tough questions.

**TAURUS**
APRIL 21-MAY 21
A friend refuses to take part in any risk-taking. Someone needs your help. A phone call creates momentary forgetfulness.

**GEMINI**
MAY 22-JUNE 21
A man's attempt to expose corruption is irritating. Certain plans are best kept secret for a short time. A carefree person brings good news.

**CANCER**
JUNE 22-JULY 22
Eliminate misery from your vocabulary. Trivial pleasures can cause social snobbery to arise. Don't jump to conclusions.

**LEO**
JULY 23-AUG 23
You'll find treats in the least likely place. Everything will work out if you're patient. A woman will make a dreadful error.

**VIRGO**
AUG 24-SEPT 22
Do some walking to find what you really want. Face up to your motivation to change your life. Tie up any loose ends.

**LIBRA**
SEPT 23-OCT 23
You'll want to retreat from the world. You may have lost the ability to focus on conversations. Your feelings will improve by tomorrow.

**SCORPIO**
OCT 24-NOV 22
Mixed fortunes will prevail. Your values are called into question. Fear of the unknown causes everything to bog down.

**SAGITTARIUS**
NOV 23-DEC 21
Invite your friends and family to visit. Give in to the merriness of a great moment. Nothing lasts forever.

**CAPRICORN**
DEC 22-JAN 20
Someone is trying to pull a fast one. An anxious friend laughs too hard. Domestic difficulties will be remarkably advantageous.

**AQUARIUS**
JAN 21-FEB 18
Be courageous and give something a try. It's your turn to be a hero. An old flame is living on a lonely street.

**PISCES**
FEB 19-MARCH 20
Emotions will be on public display. It's not a good day to spend lazing around. Carelessness will have someone all worked up.

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